



Developing Cultural Capital through Citizenship

“It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

It follows that, as teachers, we need to ensure that along with teaching the content of the curriculum, we are enabling children to function as well-informed individuals well after they leave school. It is a huge job, but without the guidance of their teachers, some young people have very little cultural and social input from elsewhere. They could, therefore, miss opportunities that other young people are able to access, which could lead them to make decisions that are less informed than they could be.

Now more than ever, the job of the classroom teacher is of such high importance with regard to filling the gaps that students have. To this end at Newlands Junior School we have planned a curriculum to provide our pupils with an ambitious range of knowledge and opportunities which will open doors and give them confidence in wider society.

Opportunities to develop cultural capital through citizenship teaching involves:

- Offering a broad and varied curriculum, which focuses on the whole child, their behaviour, and their attitudes towards others. All of which will help them to become balanced well-rounded citizens as they progress through life.
- Providing opportunities for children to develop the core values of Citizenship, like tolerance, perseverance etc. through assemblies, engaging in a variety of cooperative activities. The more experience children have of working collaboratively in a group and learning about inspirational people and events, the more embedded these core values will become, making them confident, respectful members of society with the ability to contribute, flourish and be the best they can be.
- Linking our school values like honesty, courage etc. to real events and inspirational people both past and present, in order to inspire our children and expose them to positive role models.
- Ensuring our children are immersed with key vocabulary, for example our values, British values, global vocabulary. Make sure they know the importance of key words like protected characteristics, ensuring they understand what these words mean and how they can relate them to their own lives to enable them to become better, kinder individuals.
- Inviting individuals into school to broaden our children's experiences of the kind of citizens they should aspire to be, whilst also teaching key life skills. For example, road safety, the police, those who have overcome disabilities. Giving the children the opportunity to interact with a variety of adults who broaden their knowledge of others and prepare them to be responsible, respectful and active citizens who are able to play their part and become actively involved in public life as adults.
- Offering themed weeks across school, like aspirations week, diversity week, to further enhance children's awareness of themselves and their own lives, encouraging them to have a goal in life to aim for, to encourage tolerance and respect for others and to show examples of the best that humanity has to offer.
- Constantly offering a window into the outside world, by keeping up to date with key ceremonies, celebrations and events, for example Remembrance, 9/11. As well as opening children's eyes to the world around them and making them aware of local and global issues as they occur.